

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/781,250

Atty docket No. Q62939

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1, 2 A-B, 3 A-C have been amended to include the designation “Related Art.”

New Fig. 8 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

The drawings filed on February 13, 2001, are objected to by the Examiner. Specifically, Figures 1, 2 A-B, 3 A-C should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." Figures 1, 2 A-B, 3 A-C have been amended to include the designation "Related Art."

The drawings are also objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature of claim 2. New Fig. 8 has been added to illustrate the "different information channel transmitted" and "after handover is performed" features of claim 2 as required by the Examiner. Support for Fig. 8 may be found in the specification at least on page 11, line 15 through page 12, line 22. No new matter has been added.

II. Specification

The specification has been amended to include references to new Fig. 8, and to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

III. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Strat et al., AU 199869926B2, Patent No. AU 735582, ("Strat"). Applicant traverses these rejections.

Strat does not disclose at least wherein each of the plurality of base stations includes circuitry to transmit a unidirectional logical control channel signal in a designated transmission time slot of a frame, the designated transmission time slot being the same for each of the plurality of base stations, as recited in claim 1. Strat discloses a base station that transmits

broadcast control logic channels to a plurality of mobile stations on at least one physical channel constituted by the recurrence of a particular time slot in each frame of a carrier (page 3, lines 20-27). In other words, a particular base station may repeatedly transmit its broadcast control logic channel in a particular transmission time slot of a frame, but a different base station repeatedly transmits its broadcast control logic channel in a different transmission time slot of a frame. Further, Strat discloses a first set of logic channels carried in a first physical channel (i.e., time slot) and a second set of logic channels carried in a second physical channel of a base station (page 5, lines 19-28). Therefore, the disclosure of Strat relates to one or two transmission slots of one base station. Strat does not, therefore, disclose or suggest the designated transmission time slot being the same for each of the plurality of base stations.

For at least the above reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over Strat. Also, claims 2-6 and 8, which depend from independent claim 1 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claims 7 and 9 contain features that are similar to the features recited in claim 1 and are therefore patentable for similar reasons.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strat in view of Park et al., U.S. 6,609,003 B1, ("Park"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

The combination of Strat and Park does not disclose or suggest at least wherein each of the plurality of base stations includes circuitry to transmit a unidirectional logical control channel signal in a designated transmission time slot of a frame, the designated transmission time slot being the same for each of the plurality of base stations, as recited in claim 1 from which claim 2

depends. As noted above, Strat does not disclose at least the designated transmission time slot being the same for each of the plurality of base stations, as recited in independent claim 1 from which claim 2 depends.

Park does not cure the deficiencies of Strat. Park discloses that a mobile station receives a sync channel transmitted from station A and a sync channel transmitted from station B during handoff, and only from station B after handoff, but does not disclose at least the designated transmission time slot for the control channel signal being the same for each of the plurality of base stations.

Even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention were motivated to combine these references, the combination would not disclose or suggest all the elements recited in Applicant's claim. Therefore, claim 2 is patentable over the combination of Strat in view of Park.

Claims 3-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strat in view of Yahata et al., U.S. 6,480,483 ("Yahata"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

The combination of Strat in view of Yahata does not disclose or suggest at least at least wherein each of the plurality of base stations includes circuitry to transmit a unidirectional logical control channel signal in a designated transmission time slot of a frame, the designated transmission time slot being the same for each of the plurality of base stations, as recited in the claims.

As noted above, Strat does not disclose at least the designated transmission time slot for the control channel signal being the same for each of the plurality of base stations, as recited in

independent claim 1 from which claims 3-5 depend. Yahata does not cure the deficiencies of Strat.

Yahata discloses a frame master timing signal generated by a master base station used to generate a synchronized control channel signal transmitted to surrounding slave base station (col. 15, ll. 6-30). In other words, Yahata merely synchronizes the start of the frame among the slave base stations.

Even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention were motivated to combine these references, the combination would not disclose or suggest all the elements recited in Applicant's claims. Therefore, claims 3-5 are patentable over the combination of Strat in view of Yahata.

Claims 6 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strat in view of Park, as described above in claim 1, and further in view of Hammer (U.S. 4,872,204). Applicant traverses these rejections.

The combination of Strat, Park and Hammer does not disclose or suggest at least wherein each of the plurality of base stations includes circuitry to transmit a unidirectional logical control channel signal in a designated transmission time slot of a frame, the designated transmission time slot being the same for each of the plurality of base stations, as recited in the claims. As noted above, the combination of Strat and Park does not disclose at least the designated transmission time slot for the control channel signal being the same for each of the plurality of base stations, as recited in independent claim 1 from which claims 6 and 8 depend. Hammer does not cure the deficiencies of the combination of Strat and Park.

Hammer discloses that a mobile station receives the control information transmission channel of a base station and starts searching for an alternative base station to be assigned as the signal strength of the control information transmission channel received from the base station decreases below a predetermined level (Fig. 2 and col. 6, ll. 42-55). In other words, Hammer merely discloses that a mobile station starts searching for an alternative base station when the signal strength of the control information signal drops below a predetermined threshold.

Even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention were motivated to combine these references, the combination would not disclose or suggest all the elements recited in Applicant's claims. Therefore, claims 6 and 8 are patentable over the combination of Strat in view of Yahata, and further in view of Hammer.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, claims 1-9, which are all the claims pending in the application, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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